

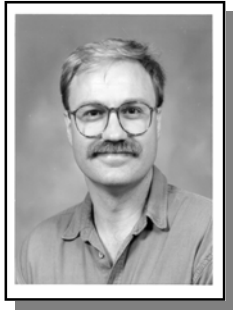
DIVISION OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

DCS BULLETIN

April, 2002

Spletto Appointed to Board

Governor John Hoeven has appointed Michael Spletto to serve on the Board of Directors of the Mental Health Planning Council.



*Michael Spletto
HOME Program Manager*

The Board provides advice and consultation to the Governor regarding the overall administration and delivery of mental health services. The Board consists of 27 members representing interests of mental health education, vocational rehabilitation, criminal justice, housing, social services, public and private groups concerning mental health, adults with serious mental illness (SMI), family members of adults with SMI or children with severe conditional disturbance (SED).

The council's duties are:

- Review and evaluate services and programs
- Review status of Block Grant
- Work with legislators
- Initiate and review surveys of HSC needs
- Meet with other governing boards to promote collaboration
- Review goals and objectives of DHS
- Review communication between DHS, Council, and Governor's Office
- Review and recommend policies
- Review certification and licensing standards
- Review as an advocate for adults with SMI and children with SED.

Spletto said that he was honored that the Governor appointed him to represent housing issues on the board. He said he was looking forward to becoming acquainted with the rest of the board members and working with the Department of Human Services in this regard.

Spletto has been working with programs related to housing for about 15 years, and hopes to bring insight on those issues to the board.

Northwest Dairy Financing Package Complete

Groundbreaking occurred April 4th for Northwest Dairy, planned for construction near Parshall. Lieutenant Governor Jack Dalrymple, Agricultural Commissioner Roger Johnson, and Division of Community Services director Paul Govig were on hand at the groundbreaking ceremony. The dignitaries moved inside for speeches and such after a brief groundbreaking in a brisk frigid wind in what was winter's last hurrah.

The \$3 million project involves the Community Development Block Grant Program, the Bank of North Dakota, North Dakota Development Fund, USDA Rural Development, and several development agencies and local banks.

The business is structured as a limited liability limited partnership. DCS director Paul Govig described this as a unique ownership structure
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Adoption of the North Dakota State Building Code

On January 10, 2002, the Division of Community Services sent out a Building Code Survey form to every city and county in North Dakota. The purpose of the survey is to identify all jurisdictions that have elected to adopt and enforce the State Building Code, as they will be eligible to vote in July 2002 during the process of updating the State Building Code to the new International Building Codes.



the correct published documents, are using the wrong publication year. In a couple of instances, cities think the county is doing code enforcement, but the county indicates it is not enforcing the state building code. Finally, some cities indicate that they haven't adopted a building code, but tell people to use the State Building Code.

We have come a long way since the state got back into the building code business, but we still have miles to go in assuring that the citizens of North Dakota can live, work, and recreate in buildings that are constructed to adequately protect their health, safety, and welfare, especially in the rural areas where codes are not enforced. People often assume in-

correctly that someone is inspecting buildings in their community or that because someone is a licensed contractor, they know building codes. It all starts with the proper adoption of the State Building Code and as the state updates to the newest codes, the cities and counties do likewise. For those cities that have not adopted the State Building Code but tell people to use it, there is no code that can be enforced until it is adopted.

Sometime in late August or early September we will publish a document, as we have twice in the past, entitled, "North Dakota State Building Code." It will tell you what codes make up the State Building Code, what amendments to those codes are adopted, and it will include a sample ordinance for the adoption of the code. In the meantime, if you have any questions about the North Dakota State Building Code, please contact Richard Gray at 328-3698 or rgray@state.nd.us.

North Dakota Century Code Chapter 54-21.3 states that, "the governing body of a city, township, or county that elects to administer and enforce a building code shall adopt and enforce the state building code." This law became effective on August 1, 1994.

In reviewing the surveys being returned, it appears that a number of cities and counties indicating that they have adopted a building code are not in compliance with this state law. Some cities say their building code is that of another city's. Others, while using

Another Renaissance Zone is Born

It took awhile, but the hard work and good planning by the City of Watford City paid off on March 1, 2002, with the designation of a Renaissance Zone.

The Zone consists of seventeen square contiguous blocks. It contains over 100 single family housing units and 75 commercial properties. As with the other zones, the new zone will be in place for up to 15 years. According to the city's Development Plan for the zone,

"the majority of this area was chosen because it is in the center of the community and is also the oldest section of the city." The Plan also indicates that, "this area has the most dilapidated areas that need to be rebuilt."

With the designation of Watford City's Renaissance Zone, there are now nine cities with a Renaissance Zone. These are Watford City, Minot, Bismarck, Jamestown, Valley City,



Casselton, West Fargo, Fargo, and Grand Forks.

For more information about the Renaissance Zone program, please contact Richard Gray at 328-3698 or at rgray@state.nd.us. Information is also available at www.state.nd.us/dcs.

Ethanol Workshop Planned for September

A day-long ethanol workshop will be conducted in September by Ethanol Producers and Consumers (EPAC), a non-profit based out of northeastern Montana which promotes the production and consumption of ethanol as a clean, renewable energy resource.



served on WRBEP's Policy Advisory Committee, and is assisting in the workshop's steering committee. EPAC has previously conducted similar sessions in North Carolina and Pennsylvania.

The workshop is designed to focus on farmers and farm organization.

Shirley Ball, EPAC's executive director, assembled the steering committee to provide local input as to the content and makeup of the upcoming North Dakota workshop. As

well as Mahlum, the planning committee includes representatives from NDSU, the North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives, the Farm Bureau, the Extension Service, various commodity groups, the Energy and Environmental Research Center, and other groups.

The conference is currently planned for September 4th in Bismarck at the Radisson Inn.

For more information, call Shirley at (406) 785-3722.

"Mr. Wind" Award Presented to Denver Rosberg

Longtime wind energy enthusiast Denver Rosberg was presented a special award at the recent Wind Energy and Rural Development in North Dakota III workshop.

The workshop was held at the Alerus Center in Grand Forks, February 22. The Division of Community Services was an organizing sponsor of the event, primarily put on by U.S. Senator Bryon Dorgan.

Rosberg is a wind energy pioneer in the state, erecting the first of several wind turbines he has owned on

his farm near Underwood in the early eighties.

In presenting the award, Senator Dorgan noted Rosberg's visionary view of wind energy's applications.

As well in believing in the innate power the North Dakota winds offer, Denver has always visualized how public policy can influence its growth, said en-



ergy program manager Kim Christianson. The vision he displayed more than 20 years ago is only now coming to fruition, as we see commercial wind energy development starting to occur.

Earlier in the day, Christianson had participated in a panel which summarized the state's progress and activity in promoting wind energy. In his talk, Christianson pointed to the state's role in assessing wind resources and facilitating development.

Northwest Dairy (Con't from page 1)

in the region, involving numerous local investors.

"As well as marketing the milk, the raw product, a project of this magnitude generates wealth on many other levels. Jobs will be created to complete the milking process, transport materials, and grow the feed," Govig said.

Feed such as alfalfa will be produced and purchased in the region," said Govig. "All of these are wealth-creating activities."

Back in our grandparents' times it was common for farm families to have a handful

of cattle, providing milk for large families and limited cash from selling cream. In today's world, economies of scale require concentrated, well-planned ventures like this one.



In addition to concentrating production, the project spreads the risk among numerous investors, and financing entities. The fact that we've been able to tap a variety of government programs helps complete the package," Govig said.

The Souris Basin Regional Planning Council was instrumental in putting the complicated financial package together said CDBG manager Bonnie Malo.

January Training on Lead-Based Paint

The Division of Community Services (DCS) provided training in January for grant subrecipients and other DCS partners concerning Housing Quality Standards (HQS) and Lead-based Paint Abatement.

Housing that is rehabilitated with either Community Development Block Grant or HOME funds must meet minimum HQS standards after completion. After January 10th of this year, all housing units receiving funds must comply with new lead-based paint regulations. HOME Program



Administrator, Michael Spletto, described the sessions as successful, with over a hundred attending the two sessions.

“We have a unique opportunity while doing housing rehab to address a number of health and safety issues the homeowner may face,” Spletto said. “We end up with safer, more marketable housing stock.”

Session evaluation forms indicated participants responded quite favorably to the session, particularly the 2nd day which consisted of actual hands-on training.

“After the first day of book training,” Spletto said, “each person went to a vacant HUD home in either Bismarck or Mandan and completed an actual HQS inspection.”

“Due to new regulations, costs become more limited on each unit.”

Proper inspections assure that each unit can accomplish the most with limited resources.

More information is available on the training or new Lead Base-Paint regulations by contacting Michael Spletto at (701) 328 2695 or mspletto@state.nd.us.



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